

## **Outline for Anne Henderson Visit**

**Monday, September 21, 2009**

### **Family Engagement Specialists (including Pre-K FES)**

**1:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Purpose:** Team-building and discussion session to develop capacity

- Identify goals and challenges
- Learn about new research and effective practice
- Identify leadership style
- Consider new approaches to engaging families as partners in raising student achievement

**Handouts:** PPT; joining process handout, PTA standards

**Equipment and supplies:** newsprint, easel, markers and tape

**Refreshments**

### **Parent Meeting (30-50 families, plus interpreters)**

**6:00 to 8:00 PM**

Presentation and Discussion with CCSD parents and family members on importance of parent/family engagement in education

- Introductions/why did I want to meet with you?
- We want your ideas on how the school and district can improve relationships with families – all families – and work with you more closely to make sure your children do well in school and enjoy learning.
- Icebreaker/In small groups: As a parent, what is the best experience you've had at your child's school? Share stories, identify common themes (Chart on newsprint)
- Brief review of importance of family involvement/BBS/key role of parents as advocate for their children
- Small groups (break into ES, MS/HS): What more could the school and teachers do to help you support your children's success in school? Is there anything the school is already doing that should be changed or improved?
- Report out
- Vote on priorities

**Handouts:** PPT handout for district leaders, joining process handout, PTA standards

**Equipment and supplies:** newsprint, easel, markers and tape, sticky dots for voting  
Childcare and food

Group makeup – at least thirty parents that are well representative of the district in terms of ethnic background, social-economic status, and age of students in school.

**Tuesday, September 22, 2009**

**Staff Professional Learning – Instructional Leadership Team: Assistant Principals, Instructional Lead Teachers, Content Coaches, Instructional Coaches, Coordinators, Content Specialists, and Directors (About 30 people)**

**8:00 to 11:00 AM**

Justification – Research demonstrates a direct correlation between family engagement and student achievement. Studies of effective programs have identified practices that are successful in improving student achievement and sustaining strong family engagement from preschool-high school. For example: developing a joining process that welcomes families to the school community, developing strong working relationships between and among families and teachers, informing parents what their children are learning and doing in class, explaining what good student work looks like by age and grade level, demonstrating to families what good teaching looks like, promoting home-school discussions on how to improve student progress, and modeling how families can reinforce classroom learning at home.

To be covered:

- Leadership is Key: What do we know about engaging families? What do we want to know?
- Brief PPT: Research demonstrates a direct correlation between family engagement and student achievement. Characteristics of an effective, research-based family engagement program. Examples from high-performing schools and districts. Some focus on Secondary Schools/what supports districts should provide
- Report on findings in CCSD so far: What did parents say? What challenges do the family engagement specialists face?
- Group discussion: What is the district currently doing to support parent/family engagement? What expectations does it have for building leaders? How is it evaluated?
- What are some next steps?

**Handouts:** BBS, PPT handout, PTA standards, BTO and joining process handouts, treasure hunts

**Equipment and supplies:** projector and screen; newsprint, easel, markers and tape

**Staff Professional Learning - Assistant Principals, Instructional Lead Teachers, Content Coaches, Instructional Coaches, Coordinators, Content Specialists, and Directors**  
**12:30 to 3:30 PM**

Repeat of morning session

**Conversation with Community Partners (UGA, Literacy Council, CIS, others)**  
**6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Purpose:** To facilitate stronger district-community collaborations

General discussion about community partners' perceptions of the district, their experiences working with schools and district staff, and their ideas for how to strengthen collaboration

- Brief review of the research with discussion of interesting things going on around the country
- Report on discussions so far with parents and district staff
- What's been your experience with school district-community collaborations?
- How could it be better/more useful?
- What kind of partnerships are you interested in?

**Wednesday, September 23**

**Staff Professional Learning – Principals**

**8:00 to 11:00 AM**

Justification – Research demonstrates a direct correlation between family engagement and student achievement. Studies of effective programs have identified practices that are successful in improving student achievement and sustaining strong family engagement from preschool-high school.

To be covered:

- Leadership is Key: What do we know about engaging families? What do you want to get out of this session?
- Brief PPT: Research demonstrates a direct correlation between family engagement and student achievement. Characteristics of an effective, research-based family engagement program. Examples from high-performing schools and districts. Some focus on Secondary Schools/what supports districts should provide
- Report on findings in CCSD so far: What did parents and district family engagement staff, community partners, say?
- Group discussion: What do you want parent engagement to look like at your schools? (Separate by ES, MS/HS) (Chart)
- What is the district currently doing to support parent/family engagement? What expectations does it have for building leaders? How is it evaluated? What supports from the district would help you do this more effectively?
- What are some next steps?

**Handouts:** BBS, PPT handout, PTA standards, BTO and joining process handouts, treasure hunts

**Equipment and supplies:** projector and screen; newsprint, easel, markers and tape

**Staff Professional Learning – District FEAT, Secondary School Counselors, Social Workers, Graduation Coaches**

**12:00 to 4:00 PM**

**Bring a lunch**

Purpose – A review of your current Family Engagement Program in terms of its various components – creating a welcoming environment, building strong relationships between teachers and families, organizing family activities that improve student achievement, developing families' self-confidence and power, promote professional development for families and staff, and accounting for differences in race, class, and culture.

- Identify goals and challenges
- Learn about new research on family involvement and student achievement
- What would you like parent engagement to look like at your schools (separate into ES, MS, HS groups)?
- What did parents, community members, principals, and instructional leaders say?

## **Wednesday, September 23 - Evening**

### **4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Discussion with the Superintendent about what happened during the two days of discussions and professional development, and the perceptions of parents, family engagement staff, and school/district leadership on the strengths and weaknesses of current family engagement practices within CCSD.

### **5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Report and discussion with the Superintendent and Board of Education of findings from the two days discussions and professional development, and the perception of parents, family engagement staff, and school/district leadership on the strengths and weaknesses of current family engagement practices within CCSD.

## **Thursday, September 24**

### **Staff Professional Learning – District FEAT Team (including pre-K), Elementary School Counselors, Social Workers 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)**

Wrap up discussion – What have we learned from these sessions?

Identify some priorities for this year: (Brainstorm and vote)

Divide into small groups by priority area and chart an action plan:

- Family-friendly schools
- Linking to learning
- Transitions
- Community partnerships
- Other?

Discuss follow-up steps

Leave for airport